IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Confirmation No.: 4728

Simona GRASSI, et al.

Date: December 14, 2009

Serial No.: 10/584,022

Group Art Unit: 1621

Filed: October 25, 2006

Examiner: Peter G. O'Sullivan

For: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF ALKYL- AND ARYL-DIPHOSPHONIC

ACIDS AND SALTS THEREOF

VIA EFS-WEB

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PETITION AND FEE FOR AUTOMATIC EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.17, 1.136(a) AND 35 USC 41(a)8

Sir:

Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner for Patents to extend the time for filing a response to the outstanding Office Action by one month. Credit card payment in the amount of \$130.00 is submitted via EFS-WEB for the petition fee in accordance with 37 CFR 1.17 computed as:

Response within first month

small entity (\$65)

You are authorized to charge to our Deposit Account No. 15-0700 any additional amounts owing.

If this petition is inadequate to avoid abandonment, the Commissioner for Patents is petitioned, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), to extend the time by the number of months which will avoid abandonment under 37 C.F.R. §1.135. The fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 should be charged to our Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

Respectfully submitted,

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS FILING SYSTEM ON December 14, 2009.

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MAF:stb